Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method, comprising:

recognizing ~~whether a complete~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message ~~composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address~~ is about to be sent, ~~after a send function has been initiated, from a sending side to a receiving side~~ from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message; and

providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized~~alerting a system user on the sending side as to the complete~~ electronic mail message ~~being~~is about to be sent; ~~and~~

~~allowing a user to authorize sending of the complete electronic mail message.~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~the~~said recognizing that an unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent comprises detecting that a send function ~~is~~has been initiated by an unauthorized agent.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the unauthorized agent is ~~the~~a virus.

4. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ method as recited in claim 1, ~~wherein said recognizing~~ ~~recognizes a send operation initiated by the user~~further comprising stopping transmission of the unauthorized electronic mail message.

5. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ method as recited in claim 1, ~~wherein said recognizing~~ ~~recognizes a send operation initiated by an unauthorized agent including the virus~~further comprising deleting the unauthorized electronic mail message prior to transmission of the unauthorized electronic mail message.

6. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method, comprising:

recognizing ~~whether a complete~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message ~~composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address~~ is about to be sent~~, after a send~~ ~~function has been initiated, from a sending side to a receiving side~~from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message; and

stopping transmission of the ~~complete~~unauthorized electronic mail message ~~until~~ ~~authorized by a user~~.

7. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method, comprising:

recognizing ~~whether a complete~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message ~~composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address~~ is about to be sent~~, after a send~~ ~~function has been initiated, from a sending side to a receiving side~~from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message; and

~~providing a user with an opportunity to consider canceling~~deleting the unauthorized

- 6 -

MEISTER *et al.*
Appl. No. 10/715,408

electronic mail message, prior to transmission of the ~~complete~~unauthorized electronic mail message ~~until authorized by the user~~.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as recited in ~~claim 7~~claim 1, further comprising displaying the ~~complete~~unauthorized electronic mail message ~~to the user after the send function is initiated~~ in an interface configured to input an instruction to ~~allowing the user to~~ modify the ~~complete~~unauthorized electronic mail message, cancel transmission of the ~~complete~~unauthorized electronic mail message ~~and~~or authorize transmission of the ~~complete~~unauthorized electronic mail message.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

~~an e-mail transmission system having a sending side and a receiving side; and~~

~~an e-mail system recognizing a complete~~a computing device configured to:

send an e-mail message;

recognize that an unauthorized e-mail message ~~composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address,~~ is about to be sent~~, after a send function has been initiated, by a user via the transmission system, alerting a user on the sending side as to the addressees of the complete e-mail message and allowing the user to authorize sending of the complete e-mail message~~from the computing device; and

provide at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized e-mail message is about to be sent from the computing device.

10. (Currently Amended)   A computer readable storage medium having stored thereon, computer executable instructions that, if executed by a computing device, cause the computing device to perform a method comprising~~for controlling a computer including a computer program~~:

recognizing ~~whether a complete~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message ~~composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address,~~is to about be sent~~, after a send function has been initiated,~~from the computing device; and

~~alerting a user as to the complete~~providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message ~~being~~is about to be sent~~and allowing the user to authorize sending of the complete electronic mail message~~.

11. (Currently Amended) An electronic mail message alert display, comprising:

a text display that provides an alert indicating that~~alerting a user on a sending side as to a complete~~an unauthorized electronic mail message ~~composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address,~~is about to be sent; ~~after a send function has been initiated,~~

~~a list of addressees;~~ and

an interface ~~element allowing the user to authorize~~that enables selective input of an instruction that stops transmission of the ~~complete~~unauthorized electronic mail message.

12. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method~~associated with messages of a user~~, comprising:

determining ~~whether~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message ~~having at least a minimum of parts needed to be a valid electronic mail message and~~composed by a virus is about to be sent from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message; and

~~alerting the user as to~~providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent.

13. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method ~~associated with messages of a user~~, comprising:

determining ~~whether~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message ~~having at least a minimum of parts needed to be a valid electronic mail message and composed by a virus is~~ about to be sent from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message is being sent by an unauthorized agent; and

~~alerting the user as to~~providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent~~; and~~

~~allowing the user to permit sending of the electronic mail message to be sent.~~

Claims 14 - 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method, comprising:

recognizing ~~whether a complete~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message composed by a process configured to compose an unauthorized electronic mail message ~~and having a valid recipient address~~ is about to be sent~~, after a send function has been initiated, from a sending side to a receiving side~~ from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message; and

~~alerting a system user on the sending side as to the complete~~providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent~~; and~~

Atty. Docket: 3222.1320001

~~allowing a user to authorize sending of the complete electronic mail~~ message.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the process is a virus.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the process is an unauthorized agent.

26. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method, comprising:

recognizing ~~whether a complete~~that an electronic mail message ~~is~~about to be sent from a ~~sending side to a receiving side, wherein the complete~~computing device configured to send an electronic mail message is an unauthorized electronic mail message~~, has a valid recipient address, and is to be sent after a send function has been initiated~~; and

alerting ~~a system user on the sending side about the complete~~providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent~~; and~~

~~allowing a user to authorize sending the complete electronic mail message.~~

27. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program product including a tangible computer-~~readable medium ~~containing~~having stored thereon, computer executable instructions that, ~~when~~if executed by a ~~processor~~computing device, ~~causes the processor~~cause the computing device to perform ~~processes of~~a method comprising:

recognizing ~~whether a complete~~that an electronic mail message ~~is~~about to be sent

from a ~~sending side to a receiving side, wherein the complete~~computing device configured to

send an electronic mail message is an unauthorized electronic mail message~~, has a valid~~

~~recipient address, and is to be sent after a send function has been initiated~~; and

alerting a system user on the sending side about the completeproviding at the

computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to

be sent~~; and~~

~~allowing a user to authorize sending the complete electronic mail message.~~

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) An e-mail system, comprising:

means for recognizing ~~whether a complete~~that an unauthorized electronic mail

message is about to be sent from a ~~sending side to a receiving side, wherein the complete~~a

computing device configured to send an electronic mail message~~ is composed by an~~

~~unauthorized agent, has a valid recipient address, and is to be sent after a send function has~~

~~been initiated~~; and

means for ~~alerting a system user on the sending side about the complete~~providing at

the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message is

about to be sent~~; and~~

~~means for allowing a user to authorize sending the complete electronic mail message.~~